

**COUNTY LEGISLATURE  
JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI**

**OFFICE OF SCOTT BURNETT**  
LEGISLATOR, FIRST DISTRICT

JACKSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
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April 17, 2002

The Hon. Michael K. Powell  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 – 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20544

Dear Mr. Powell:

Cable TV companies control more than 80% of the pay-television market, and much of the broadband Internet market too. Telephone companies control the bulk of voice communications, plus most of the rest of high-speed Internet access. And of course, in their local markets these companies' monopolies are protected by their government franchises.

And yet, those entrenched interests still claim that there are antitrust issues with the proposed merger of the Dish Network and DirecTV (FCC Docket # 01-348).

This merger provides a virtual "third line" into the home for a bundle of video/data/Internet services. That is to say, it provides meaningful competition with the telephone and cable TV companies.

The merged company will be able to serve all 210 markets in the United States, rather than the 40 or so markets the two satellite companies now serve, with greatly expanded high-definition television programming, pay-per-view, educational, specialty and foreign-language programming, and all the other possibilities this technology permits.

The 21<sup>st</sup>-century technologies of communications and the Internet are already under the control of local monopolies. Of course the phone and cable companies don't want the Dish Network and DirecTV to merge. That would mean competition, which is bad for the current monopolists – but good for the rest of us. I urge you to support the Dish/DirecTV merger.

Thank you,

Scott Burnett  
Legislator, First District